

REMARKS

Claim 1 is currently pending in the application. Claim 1 is comprised of claim 2 of the parent application. The Specification has been modified to indicate that the present application is a continuation application of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/288,646. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

CLAIMS

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claim 2 of the parent application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent No. 60-174439 ("The Japanese patent"). Claim 2 of the parent application corresponds to pending claim 1 of the present application. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Referring to Figs. 1-4, the Japanese patent is directed to air cleaner including a base 3, inlet panel 4, fan 6, filter 8, frame 2 and motor 5. The motor 5 and fan 6 are each supported exclusively by the base 3 and the filter 8 and inlet panel 4 are each exclusively supported by the frame 2. In operation, the fan 6 draws air into the inlet holes of the panel 4. The inlet air flows through the filter 8 and is directed by a suction port orifice in the frame 2 toward a center of the device.

Referring to Figs. 4 and 5, the present invention is directed to an air filtration device 10 including a baffle plate 60 that supports a motor 46 and impeller 54. The baffle plate 60 directs inlet air from an air inlet 16 toward a central inside area of the impeller 54. The impeller 54 is secured to a drive shaft of the motor 46 and the motor 46 is secured by fasteners to the baffle plate 60. Accordingly, the motor 46 and impeller 54 are at least partially supported by the baffle plate 60.

Claim 1 of the present application is directed to an air filtration device and recites, *inter alia*, a housing defining an air flow path therethrough... an impeller... including a central

inside area... a baffle plate supported by said housing for directing air toward said central inside area; and a motor for driving the impeller, the motor and impeller at least partially supported by the baffle plate.

Applicants respectfully submit that the Japanese patent does not anticipate claim 1 of the present application. Specifically, there is no teaching, suggestion or disclosure in the Japanese patent of a motor and impeller that are supported by a baffle plate that directs air toward a central inside area of the impeller. The Japanese patent discloses a motor and fan that are exclusively supported by a base 3 of the air cleaner. Therefore, the motor and impeller of the Japanese patent are not supported by a baffle plate that directs air toward a central inside area of the impeller. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw any rejection of claim 1, based upon anticipation by the Japanese patent because the Japanese patent does not teach, suggest or disclose each and every element of claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing Preliminary Remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claim 1, is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LAWRENCE R. PILLION *et al.*

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By: Martin G. Belisario

MARTIN G. BELISARIO

Registration No. 32,886

AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP

One Commerce Square

2005 Market Street, Suite 2200

Philadelphia, PA 19103-7013

Telephone: 215-965-1200

Direct Dial: 215-965-1303

Facsimile: 215-965-1210

E-Mail: mbelisario@akingump.com

MGB/DJB:ccr